United Nations E/C.19/2013/4

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 February 2013

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Twelfth session
New York, 20-31 May 2013
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Comprehensive dialogue with United Nations agencies and funds

Report of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues annual meeting for 2012

Summary

The annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues for 2012 was convened in Montreal, Canada, from 28 to 30 November 2012. It was hosted by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in accordance with the Support Group's terms of reference and the practice established in 2002 of rotating the chair annually among its members.

* E/C.19/2013/1.

13-24263 (E) 120313

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I. Background

1. The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues plays a key role in ensuring coordination of mutual efforts concerning indigenous peoples' issues and in supporting the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In this context and after discussions with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, it was decided that the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity would host the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group for 2012 and chair the group for the following twelve months, to be succeeded in that role by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

2. The meeting of the Support Group was held at the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Montreal, Canada, from 28 to 30 November 2012.

A. Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by international agency focal points for indigenous peoples' issues and by the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Edward John, as well as 27 participants from 21 entities, including six colleagues who joined via videoconference.

B. Opening of the meeting

4. The Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, opened the meeting. In his address he emphasized that his highest priority was the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and urged that the focus on implementation be reflected in inter-agency cooperation on indigenous issues. He requested that the Support Group identify common goals, seek opportunities for increased collaboration and identify ways and means to harmonize inter-agency work and maximize limited resources.

5. The meeting aimed to foster a practical dialogue between entities, encourage a collaborative approach to addressing recommendations arising from the Permanent Forum, and serve as a planning exercise to encourage greater coordination and collaboration in areas of mutual interest, such as capacity-building. The Executive Secretary noted that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity had adopted decisions at its eleventh meeting[1] requesting increased collaboration between United Nations entities in delivering capacity-building and that this was very much supported by indigenous peoples. Further noting the difficult funding environment faced by the international system, he urged participants to use the opportunity for members of the Support Group to share ideas and experiences on how entities might collaborate more closely, in the context of their various mandates, to use scarce resources as efficiently as possible for the benefit of indigenous communities. In conclusion, he asked all participating entities

[1] See UNEP/CBD/COP/11/35, annex I, decision XI/14, entitled "Progress in the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions and its integration into the various areas of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity".

to reflect on such issues during the meeting, and to identify possible avenues for cooperation in the coming years.

6. The Chair of the Permanent Forum commenced by greeting participants in his indigenous language and respectfully acknowledging the Mohawk people of the Kahnawake community, on whose traditional territory the meeting was taking place. He thanked the Executive Secretary and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for their welcome. He mentioned that the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,[2] was very important for indigenous peoples as it established obligations for users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge to introduce legal, administrative or policy measures to ensure compliance with the access and benefit-sharing law of provider countries.

7. He noted that there remained some issues to resolve concerning the Nagoya Protocol, including its effective implementation. He gave the example of the Hoodia plant from Southern Africa, traditionally used for weight loss, which was currently being used by consumers in developed countries. He recognized that the Support Group had an important role to play in implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. He thanked the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for its previous role as chair of the Support Group, and also thanked the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for its participation in the in-depth dialogue, held in May 2012, and emphasized that the participation of WIPO was very important to the Permanent Forum. He recognized efforts to develop indigenous policies and thanked the entities for promoting the effective participation of indigenous peoples in their processes. He mentioned specific policies of engagement adopted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank. He also noted that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) were working on indigenous policies.

8. In discussing environmental issues, the Chair of the Permanent Forum noted tremendous challenges for indigenous peoples caused by such extractive industries as oil sands and shale gas, including the challenges stemming from the tremendous amounts of water required to develop such industries, especially in British Colombia in Canada, where many people opposed the pipeline because of the risk of accidental spills. He emphasized that many indigenous peoples continued to depend on fish and products from nature, and were thus particularly vulnerable to environmental problems resulting from extractive industries. He urged the United Nations to pay attention to indigenous peoples in the United States of America and Canada, as the problems there were equally important as problems faced by indigenous peoples in such regions as Africa and South America. He finished by emphasizing that the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity was extremely important not only to current but also to future generations.

[2] See UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/1, entitled "Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization".

9. The chief of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, Chandra Roy-Henriksen, thanked the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity for his welcome and also thanked the Chair of the Permanent Forum for his participation in the meeting. She mentioned that 13 September 2012 was the fifth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (resolution 61/295). She urged entities of the United Nations system and indigenous peoples to work more closely together to ensure the application of the Declaration at the national level. She mentioned that the Permanent Forum was working towards a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014, and requested entities to actively support indigenous peoples in the preparations for the event.

10. She reminded participants that the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005-2014) was coming to an end, and that there should be an evaluation process to assist the international community and indigenous peoples to decide on the subsequent agenda. She also drew attention to the development agenda beyond 2015, including the development of sustainable development goals. She thanked UNFPA, as outgoing chair of the Support Group, for advancing concrete initiatives to implement some of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, including a proposal for the creation of a knowledge portal and the assessment of working methods for collaboration between the Support Group and the Permanent Forum. She also thanked IFAD for facilitating training of United Nations country teams, Governments and indigenous peoples' organizations and for ensuring that indigenous peoples were included as participants in the trainings for country teams, and that indigenous peoples' issues were covered in those trainings. She thanked WIPO for participating in the in-depth dialogue with the Permanent Forum in 2012, urged other entities to consider engaging in the in-depth dialogue in subsequent years and advised that an expert group meeting of the Permanent Forum would be held from 29 to 31 January 2013 on the theme "Indigenous youth: identity, challenges and hope: articles 14, 17, 21 and 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples".

11. The chief of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum also advised participants that the following session of the Permanent Forum would be a review year, with a focus on recommendations in health, culture and education. She thanked the Support Group for their ongoing support and looked forward to discussions, under the agenda item relating to working methods, on how collaborations could be further enhanced, and in concluding, thanked the participants, both in Montreal and those participating by videoconference.

C. History of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and its terms of reference

12. In keeping with the established practice for the previous meetings of the Support Group, it was agreed by the participants that the representative of the host agency (John Scott of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity) and the chief of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, would be co-chairs of the meeting. The meeting adopted its provisional agenda and proposed organization of work (see document UNEP/CBD/8J/IASG/1/1).

II. Organization of work

13. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity provided an overview of the historical process of the Support Group. In the year 2000, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, had written to heads of entities working on issues relevant to indigenous peoples, requesting them to nominate a focal point. She invited focal points to come together as an inter-agency group to support the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues met for the first time in 2002. The Support Group developed terms of reference, agreeing to meet for an annual meeting and for a meeting on the margins of the annual sessions of the Permanent Forum. The terms of reference were approved in 2003 and revised in 2007.

14. Participants were asked for comments on the terms of reference. After some discussions, it was agreed that (a) they would be circulated electronically for comments in early 2013, (b) proposed revisions would be incorporated, and (c) the revised draft would be considered at the annual meeting of the Support Group for 2013.

15. The participants underlined the importance of the engagement of other entities participating in the Support Group and the need to maintain the active participation of current members. Members decided that the revised terms of reference could include a section on the responsibilities of member organizations, which the heads of entities could be asked to sign off on, to ensure the focal point has support.

16. Many participants noted the long-standing membership of the World Bank and its valuable contribution to the Support Group. Participants also agreed that the activities of the World Bank were relevant to indigenous peoples and thus the engagement of the World Bank in the Support Group was important. A letter from the World Bank was read out, in which the retirement of their current advisor was noted, as was the imminent appointment of a new senior indigenous advisor to continue World Bank engagement with the Support Group. The representatives of the following organizations were unable to attend the meeting: FAO, Fondo Indígena, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the World Food Programme.

17. UNFPA noted that a desirable outcome may be to agree to and list actions arising from the annual meeting. Many participants agreed that this was a useful and practical working method and it was agreed that the actions arising from the meeting would be annexed to the report (see annex).

Introduction to the Convention on Biological Diversity and work relevant to indigenous peoples

18. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity provided information on the participation and role of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention, with a focus on traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use. The presentation included an overview of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3*, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

as well as the Nagoya Protocol and outcomes from the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The presentation was followed by a discussion of various issues, including genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, coordination with other United Nations bodies working on similar or related issues, participation mechanisms, the complementary work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and related provisions to ensure the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, among other matters.

19. The secretariat also emphasized the priorities of its Executive Secretary regarding implementation and the enhanced engagement of civil society in solutions-focused dialogue. The enhanced participation mechanisms used by the Working Group on Article 8 (j) are seen as good practices. Participants noted parallels with the current process being followed by the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, at WIPO. This was followed by a dialogue on participation mechanisms for indigenous peoples in international negotiations. Participants also discussed the operationalization of free, prior and informed consent, including the right to say no, to refuse access to their knowledge.

20. Participants noted the advantage of having a recognized indigenous entity to engage with during negotiations, such as the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, which served as an indigenous caucus to meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the indigenous caucus at WIPO in the form of the meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. It was noted that, unlike some indigenous caucuses following other international processes, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity continued to operate intersessionally outside of formal meetings of the Conference of the Parties; it has a global coordinator and regional coordinators; and works electronically outside of meeting times. In addition, it was noted that other international entities, including WIPO, FAO and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, work on genetic resources. A discussion ensued on how the relevant agencies remained coordinated in this work.

III. Responses of the Inter-Agency Support Group to current and previous recommendations of the Permanent Forum to the Support Group and the United Nations system

21. Under this item, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum presented the compilations of recommendations from the sessions of the Permanent Forum to the Support Group. Participants received a list of recommendations addressed to the Support Group from 2002 to 2012, as well as the current recommendations to United Nations entities. The secretariat had also compiled all recommendations made to the United Nations system from 2002 to 2012. The participants reviewed and discussed the recommendations to the Support Group, considered responses and provided information about related activities of their respective agencies.

22. Participants discussed the recommendations of the Permanent Forum to the Support Group, with a focus on current recommendations. The Support Group agreed to address the recommendations during the meeting and to consider a strategy on how to address the recommendations to the United Nations system. In

order to manage the volume of recommendations, some participants proposed that the recommendations could be noted as completed, ongoing, in need of revision or redirection or retired. Retired recommendations could include superseded, outdated, repetitive or time-bound recommendations. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum and/or the Support Group could review previously made recommendations, starting with those from the session held in 2002, and recommend the retirement of recommendations for consideration by the members of the Permanent Forum at each annual session. It was noted that similar processes are used by other international organizations, including the Convention on Biological Diversity.

23. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum took the participants through the current recommendations to the Support Group, as well as recommendations to the United Nations system. Focal points made some initial responses and also clarified to which entities various recommendations would be relevant. The secretariat also outlined the process for the election of new members of the Permanent Forum and informed the Support Group about the current cycle of membership, noting that the election of new members was currently under way and was likely to be finalized by the Economic and Social Council in May 2013.

IV. Opportunities for inter-agency collaborations in 2013

24. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity informed participants about the extensive work of the Working Group on Article 8 (j) concerning capacity-building and indigenous peoples. Patronage by the Government of Spain had allowed for a comprehensive medium-term capacity-building strategy to be implemented for indigenous peoples and local communities in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The success of the strategy had led parties to the Convention, indigenous and local communities to call for the strategy to be expanded to the other six regions recognized by the Permanent Forum. The secretariat of the Convention discussed the success of the programme on article 8 (j), including the use of the train-the-trainer methodology, as well as partnerships with local indigenous organizations in workshop planning, development and facilitation.

25. Other entities, including the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), WIPO and IFAD also discussed capacity-building initiatives, where it was noted that such workshops provide a useful avenue for practical collaborations, which can save limited human and financial resources. Entities also discussed the usefulness of indigenous internship programmes, with a focus on the indigenous and minorities' fellowship programme at OHCHR. They discussed ways and means of supporting and collaborating with OHCHR to support and strengthen the programme. The secretariat of the Convention also mentioned the partnership it had with Conservation International in support of its indigenous fellowship programme.

26. PAHO introduced its work on a strategy for cultural diversity and work on intercultural health. UNESCO and the secretariat of the Convention were working on both biological and cultural diversity and would engage further to learn from the work of PAHO, including linkages between biological and cultural diversity. It was recommended that a repository for the Support Group could include electronic modules, including the PAHO modules on intercultural health.

27. IFAD presented its upcoming work for 2013, including the first global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum, scheduled for 11 and 12 February 2013. IFAD also discussed the regional preparatory processes leading to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. IFAD was supporting the indigenous preparatory processes for the World Conference by direct funding. The International Land Coalition also presented its work concerning indigenous land rights.

28. WIPO presented the work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore and its current intensive negotiations towards concluding a text of an international legal instrument which would ensure the effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, including through enhanced mechanisms at WIPO for the participation of indigenous peoples. WIPO also noted that the success of the in-depth dialogue between members of the Permanent Forum and WIPO at the eleventh session of the Forum had generated great interest, resulting in 13 recommendations being addressed to WIPO. To address several of the Forum recommendations, WIPO was planning to organize an international indigenous expert meeting and a practical workshop for indigenous peoples in 2013. Entities discussed various models for international negotiations, including mechanisms for the participation of indigenous peoples.

29. The International Labour Organization (ILO) presented its work of relevance to indigenous peoples in Asia and Africa and also on law reform in countries including Nepal and Indonesia. ILO noted the usefulness of promoting social dialogue and standards and provided examples from South Africa. In the Latin American region, ILO, as part of a tripartite forum (Governments, employers and employees) was seeking to engage employers regarding ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries.

30. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) welcomed the greening of Support Group practices with the introduction of videoconferencing. UNEP reported that its senior management had recently adopted a policy on engagement with indigenous peoples. The North America office for UNEP drew attention to its work on the Arctic and the proposal to hold a ministerial breakfast on indigenous peoples in the Arctic at the meeting of the governing body of UNEP to be held in February 2013. UNEP explained the various environmental problems facing peoples in the Arctic, including pollutants such as black carbon. It was emphasized that there was a need for greater sharing among the Support Group on Arctic issues and the need for education products on those issues for indigenous peoples in that region.

31. UNICEF discussed areas of possible inter-agency collaborations regarding indigenous children and youth and drew attention to the forthcoming report of the rights of the child, which would focus on indigenous children. UNICEF, in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNFPA, ILO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, would launch a study on violence against indigenous girls and young women and would like to work with interested entities, including PAHO, in that regard.

32. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided a detailed overview of the development agenda beyond 2015 and emerging sustainable development goals. It emphasized that there was a need for indigenous peoples to be

engaged and included in the process. Colleagues in the Support Group proposed that a collaborative paper be developed to raise awareness about the need to include indigenous peoples. UNDP also discussed other pertinent issues, including extractive industries and business and human rights. A representative of the Small Grants Programme, implemented by UNDP as part of the Global Environment Facility, provided detailed information on the development of a policy on indigenous peoples; the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Parks Congress, scheduled for 2014 in Sydney, Australia; and the World Indigenous Network Conference, planned for May 2013 in Darwin, Australia. The manager of the Equator Initiative drew the attention of the Support Group to the establishment of an accountability mechanism by UNDP, UNEP and FAO, the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, for promoting stakeholder engagement and training in anti-corruption in the programme for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD programme).

33. UNESCO reported on its work to elaborate a policy on engaging with indigenous peoples, including from a recent workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in September 2012, in Santiago. In response to recommendations from the Permanent Forum, progress was also being made towards addressing concerns expressed in relation to World Heritage sites, notably through a recent meeting on the issue, held in Copenhagen, organized by the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs and hosted by the Heritage Agency of Denmark. Inter-agency collaboration on global climate change would continue through 2013 and include work with the secretariat of the Convention and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, as well as OHCHR, as part of the Danish-funded "Climate Frontlines" project. An international expert meeting on traditional knowledge and climate change assessment and adaptation, held in Mexico, in July 2012, produced the publication "Weathering Uncertainty: traditional knowledge for climate change assessment and adaptation"[3] led by UNESCO in partnership with the United Nations University, the secretariat of the Convention and the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility. The inter-agency effort focused on bringing indigenous peoples' knowledge of climate change into the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to be released in 2014. An update was provided on the emerging Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), for which the interim secretariat is provided by UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP and FAO. UNESCO leads the work of the Platform on building synergies between indigenous and scientific knowledge, and looked forward to working on the issue with other entities, notably the secretariat of the Convention.

34. The Department of Public Information stated that they would continue to work with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum to publicize the upcoming session of the Permanent Forum, as well as the International Day of the World's Indigenous People. The Department had also started working on a draft communications strategy for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014.

[3] Available from www.ipmpcc.org.

Possible strategic directions for upcoming major events for the Support Group

35. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum provided an overview of the preparations for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held on 22 and 23 September 2014, with a focus on the modalities for the event, including the role of international agencies. Entities are called upon to provide assistance to indigenous peoples in their regional and global preparatory processes. The representatives of those entities discussed opportunities to support indigenous peoples in their preparatory processes, including through direct funding such as that provided by IFAD, or through providing opportunities at organized events for indigenous peoples to discuss and prepare for the World Conference.

36. The secretariat also emphasized the need for the strategic inclusion of indigenous peoples in the development agenda beyond 2015, including in sustainable development goals. Various entities discussed how this might be achieved. Some participants reinforced the suggestion that the Support Group prepare a paper on the development agenda beyond 2015 and sustainable development goals. UNFPA discussed the need for a concise paper with key messages and proposed possible distribution methods for such a paper, including through the current online thematic consultations on inequalities. The secretariat of the Convention offered to coordinate the development of a short collaborative paper, building on an earlier study, entitled "Indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals" (E/C.19/2005/4/Add.14) and on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The position papers would then inform the various processes related to the development agenda beyond 2015. It was recommended that participants join the thematic consultations on inequalities, encourage indigenous networks to join and to contribute to the joint paper, bearing in mind that the time frame was tight and the paper should be available before the end of the thematic discussion, on 14 December 2012. UNEP noted that in developing a paper, the Support Group could draw on the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288). The secretariat of the Permanent Forum also noted that it was already engaged in thematic discussions on inequalities in support of the development agenda beyond 2015. UNFPA emphasized the importance of mobilizing the indigenous peoples' constituency and colleagues in United Nations entities to participate in the online discussion on inequalities and to submit a draft of the position paper of the Support Group on the issue. This would ensure that those views were reflected in the outcome of the thematic consultation, leading to the final report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and a special event to be held during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, in September 2013. UNESCO pointed out that consultations under way for the development agenda beyond 2015 were available from the website www.worldwewant2015.org.

37. UNFPA provided an overview of the operational review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Programme of Action provides for dedicated attention to indigenous peoples with a set of specific commitments for action. The review included the roll-out of a global survey in 2012, which incorporated a stand-alone module on indigenous peoples' issues and the participation of indigenous peoples at national stakeholder meetings.

The survey findings would provide valuable inputs for a human rights conference in connection with the review of the Programme of Action, to be held in 2013, at which the participation of indigenous peoples would also be promoted. The outcome of the review process would provide valuable inputs for the indigenous peoples' conference in the area of sexual and reproductive health, with a focus on intercultural health models and reproductive rights issues, such as child marriage, violence against women and girls, and education and information on sexuality.

38. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children explained its mandate and priorities of its work, noting the difference between youth and children, and urged further collaborations with relevant members of the Support Group. It was noted that the rights of indigenous children, including their protection from all forms of violence, should be addressed as a cross-cutting issue. Members of the Support Group exchanged further information about indigenous children and youth issues.

V. Reviewing working methods and mutual collaboration

39. UNFPA introduced the minutes from the prior discussion with Permanent Forum members on reviewing working methods and mutual collaboration, during its last session in 2012, as well as a proposed matrix developed to compile and compare information about the United Nations system as an easy reference document for members of the Permanent Forum. It had suggested that, during the annual two-week sessions, it would be highly desirable for members to use the opportunity to meet with heads of entities in or visiting New York. Members of the Support Group agreed to recommend to their heads of entities to do so.

40. Members of the Support Group with country presences considered how country offices could provide opportunities for the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations planning processes at the national and subnational levels. Members also discussed the need to ensure bilateral meetings with the relevant Permanent Forum member focal points during the annual sessions. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum provided an overview of the Permanent Forum processes and time frames to assist the Support Group in their planning for the following session. It noted the need for official invitations to Permanent Forum members to come from the secretariat in order to ensure coordination and follow-up and also to ensure that Permanent Forum members travelled and participated as United Nations experts with the immunities and privileges afforded by their status. The secretariat reminded colleagues of the mandate of the Permanent Forum, which was to promote coordination across the United Nations system, rather than to monitor. The secretariat also provided time frames for the submission of documents and information on the use of reports of entities and the preparation of a summary document. The secretariat of the Convention recommended that all future reports by entities to the Permanent Forum include an executive summary on the first page, focusing on responses to Permanent Forum recommendations. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum agreed that this would be of great assistance in their task of analysing and summarizing the many reports from entities and preparing a summary document.

41. UNEP, considering the vast body of Permanent Forum recommendations covering 11 years, discussed future directions and moves towards meaningful and

effective implementation. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum noted that the Forum was moving in this direction through the recently established biennial cycle of a thematic year, followed by a review year of its work. UNFPA also recommended that the annual report of the Support Group should focus less on activities by individual entities and more on collective actions. It was recommended that entities continue to discuss possible recommendations that would advance indigenous issues within their respective entities with relevant Permanent Forum focal points, in advance of the annual session. Participants also noted that it was difficult for Permanent Forum members to be aware of where they should direct their recommendations, whether to the secretariat or the political arm of a given entity. Heads of entities indicated that it was sufficient for members to direct their recommendations to the relevant entities and that those secretariats could ensure the recommendations were addressed by the appropriate process and body. The participants also discussed the challenges of the various conflicting reporting cycles within which both the entities and the Permanent Forum work. It was noted that the secretariat of the Permanent Forum does its best to ensure recommendations are shared with agencies as soon as possible.

42. Members of the Support Group agreed to meet at the twelfth session of the Permanent Forum, for two or three meetings over the two-week period, and to attempt to meet at least twice with Permanent Forum members; once early in the first week and the second time, later in the second week. The first meeting could coincide with the first half-day closed meeting of the session so as to allow for sufficient time for discussions. The Chair of the Support Group agreed to prepare a draft agenda in advance and to circulate it to members participating in the twelfth session of the Permanent Forum to allow time for strategic thinking. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum emphasized the value of face-to-face meetings, and noted that although greening of practices was important and videoconferencing welcomed, the face-to-face meetings were extremely important, especially for new members.

VI. Proposals on a web-based repository of tools

43. UNFPA noted that the proposal on a web-based repository of tools had been under consideration for a number of years, following several recommendations by the Permanent Forum to make the work of United Nations entities on indigenous peoples, including policies, guidelines, tools and good practices, more accessible to indigenous peoples. Participants agreed that the web-based repository would be a useful tool, as well as a coordination mechanism for the Support Group, and that the time was ripe to move ahead on the proposal. Participants supported the launch of the project but there remained some divergent views on resource mobilization for the project and ongoing support. UNFPA agreed to pursue the project as far as possible, given the current lack of financial resources, by exploring a partnership with the human rights mainstreaming mechanism of the United Nations Development Group, which manages a human rights portal with a specific webpage on indigenous peoples' rights. Participants agreed that building on existing structures and resources would be a preferable option in order to avoid duplication and ensure a more efficient use of limited resources. It was also noted that the webpage should be clearly linked to the Permanent Forum website, including information on a calendar of upcoming events and milestones. UNFPA also agreed

to report back on progress made so that the Support Group could consider further steps.

Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples, including through the United Nations Development Group Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues for programming at the country level

44. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum reported on the need for the continuation of the training of United Nations country teams, Governments and indigenous peoples. In this regard, the importance of implementation at the national and local levels of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was emphasized.

VII. Adoption of the report and/or recommendations and results

45. The meeting decided to provisionally adopt the actions arising from the meeting but suggested that they be circulated to all participating members, including those agencies who participated via videoconference. The report and its actions could be adopted after further electronic consultations and then submitted to the Permanent Forum for consideration at its upcoming session.

Annex

Actions arising from the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues for 2012

1. The current terms of reference would be circulated electronically by the Chair to all members of the Support Group for comments, and proposed revisions and suggestions would be incorporated in order for the revised draft to be considered at the next annual meeting of the Support Group, in 2013. The revision could include an additional section for consideration of obligations of members and/or member entities.

2. In order to manage the volume of recommendations of the Permanent Forum accumulated over 11 years, the secretariat might propose that Permanent Forum members consider whether recommendations could be noted as completed, in need of revision, ongoing, or retired. Retired recommendations could include superseded, outdated, repetitive or time-bound recommendations. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum and/or the Support Group could review recommendations made previously, starting in 2002, and recommend the retirement of recommendations for the consideration by the members of the Permanent Forum at each annual session.

3. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum will consider how recommendations made to the United Nations system from 2002 to 2012 could be analysed and reorganized according to the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and then sent to relevant clusters of entities for each mandated area, for response and/or action.

4. The Support Group would prepare a timely paper on the development agenda beyond 2015 and sustainable development goals, including main messages (including indigenous issues as a cross-cutting issue and a strong focus on gender, children and youth), in order to ensure indigenous peoples are included in the discussions on the development agenda beyond 2015 and sustainable development goals. Possible distribution for the collaborative paper could be through joining the online consultations on inequalities, encouraging indigenous networks to join the discussion, and submitting the paper to the Support Group.

5. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and partner entities would pursue work on indicators and report back at the next annual meeting of the Support Group.

6. Entities of the Support Group would look for opportunities for joint, collaborative and/or back-to-back capacity-building workshops for indigenous peoples in 2013.[a]

7. In support of the fellowship programme of OHCHR, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other interested agencies would assist by providing capacity-building to fellows (potentially through videoconference) and consider other means of collaborating in support of the programme.

[a] The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed interest in collaborating on indigenous capacity-building and, in 2013, will consider back-to-back or combined capacity-building events and invite other agencies, including the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environment agreements to join them in this initiative.

8. Entities of the Support Group would look for opportunities to support indigenous peoples in preparatory processes for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in September 2014, including through such mechanisms as the provision of funding, providing opportunities for this purpose at organized meetings and workshops, and other means as appropriate.

9. Entities would also raise awareness among senior managers and heads of entities about the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and encourage their participation.

10. Relevant entities (the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children) will participate in the International Conference on Child Labour, to be held in Brazil, in 2013, regarding the specific dimensions of the protection of the rights of indigenous children and youth as regards child labour.

11. Entities will share experiences regarding free, prior and informed consent and indigenous peoples. This information could be shared through the proposed web-tool/portal of the Support Group.

12. The Support Group agrees to move forward on the development of a web portal as a tool for inter-agency collaboration. UNFPA would advance this proposal and report back on initial actions and next steps. The web portal could be, inter alia, a repository of relevant standards, guidelines and information on indicators, as well as programmes and policies of relevance to indigenous peoples. The web portal could also provide electronic conferencing facilities, as well as both public and members-only sections.

13. The Support Group would consider, at its next meeting, how to participate in and contribute to the assessment of the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

14. The current host entity (the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity), in consultation with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum and the Support Group, would identify relevant entities not currently participating in the Support Group and write to their heads, requesting the appointment of a focal point on indigenous issues to participate in the Support Group.

15. The Support Group would work with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum to make available an annual calendar on international events relevant to indigenous peoples, to be made available on the Permanent Forum webpage. Individual entities have the responsibility to provide timely updated information throughout the year.

16. Entities are requested to submit annual reports to the Permanent Forum, including an executive summary on the front page, which focuses on responses to recommendations of the Permanent Forum, in order to assist the secretariat of the Permanent Forum in their analysis of reports by entities and the preparation of the compilation report.

17. The host entity and/or other participating entities of the Support Group would consider including tasks related to the Support Group in the terms of reference for the interns hired each year by those individual entities, as added technical support for the Support Group.